

Executive Leadership of the Council

Linda Krutz , Executive Director



Linda Krutz brings extensive experience and insight to the field of community corrections. For over 22 years, she worked as a probation officer in McCook and surrounding areas. In 1999, she was appointed as Chair of the Parole Board by Governor Mike Johanns. Linda served as a member of the original Community Corrections Working Group and the Justice Substance Abuse Task Force in 2002. After the enactment of LB 46 in July 2003, Linda was appointed by Governor Johanns as the Executive Director.



Kermit Brashear, Chair

Elected Chair of the Community Corrections Council in 2003, Kermit Brashear has come to the program with many years of experience both as lawyer and active participant in state government. In 1994 he was elected to represent the 4th Nebraska legislative district and re-elected in 1998 and 2002, furthermore serving a term as Speaker in 2005-2006 . He sat on the Executive Board, Reference, and Legislative Performance Audit Committees as well as the Committee on Committees. He was also an ex-officio member of the Rules Committee and a non-voting member of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kermit Brashear, Chair

Linda Krutz, Executive Director

Scot Adams, Director HHSS

Mike Behm, Executive Director of NE Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Esther Casmer, NE Board of Parole

Jeffrey Davis, Sarpy County Sheriff

Thomas Dorwart, Retired County Judge

Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky, Probation Administrator

Karen B. Flowers, District Court Judge

Robert Houston, NE Dept of Correctional Services

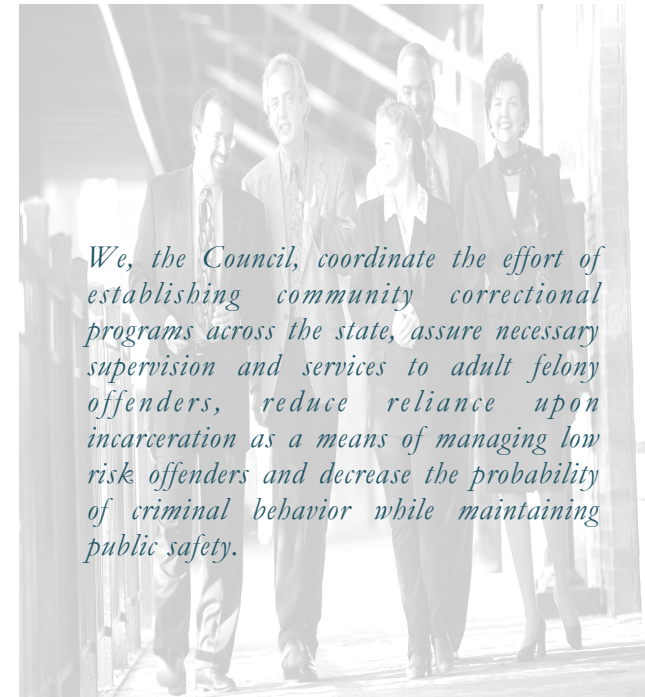
John P. Icenogle, District Court Judge

Joe Kelly, Deputy County Attorney

Robert Lindemeier, Criminal Defense Attorneys Association

Jim McKenzie, Parole Administrator

Janice Walker, State Court Administrator

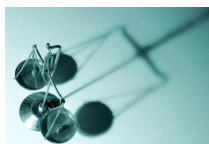


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A New Direction

In 2002, Nebraska's prisons had reached 140% of their design capacity and Nebraska was facing a financial, legal and moral dilemma. In response, then Governor Mike Johanns created the Community Corrections



First Council Meeting held Friday, October 10, 2003.

Working Group to identify ways to "plan a way out" of the impending inmate population crisis.

The Working Group was mandated to propose ways to maintain and enhance justice, reduce taxpayer cost, and ensure public safety.

The Working Group ultimately recommended sentencing practices should change in Nebraska in order to differentiate offenders who pose a danger to society from those offenders who could be safely managed in the community. By utilizing this distinction, Nebraska would be able to reduce cost by preventing another penitentiary from being built while diverting low risk offenders into safe, lower cost community based rehabilitation programs

To implement the recommendations, the Working Group designed a proposal which became Legislative Bill 46. This bill created the Community Corrections Council—a collaboration between the Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches of government.

LB 46 Nebraska Revised Statute §§ 47-619—47-633

In May 2003, LB46 was passed as the first step in meeting the critical need to identify appropriate alternatives to centralized incarceration facilities and foster their utilization within a comprehensive community justice strategy. Some of the key components of the bill include:

- ◆ Creation of the Community Corrections Council to oversee and ensure that a continuum of community corrections is developed for use by probationers and parolees.
- ◆ Assessment of Probation and Parole fees for the support of enhanced programming and services for offenders.
- ◆ Development and submission of Sentencing Guidelines to the Supreme Court.
- ◆ Development of a criminal justice data reporting and analysis system to enable the state to make consistent, competent, and informed criminal justice policy and sentencing decisions.



Ongoing Growth & Development

Since its inception in 2003, the Council's mandate has included the development and implementation of a plan for



statewide use of, and standards for, community correctional facilities and programs.

The Council is also charged with the creation of, and revision to, sentencing guidelines.

In collaboration with interested agencies and stakeholders, the following have been accomplished since summer 2005:

- ◆ Design and implementation of the Fee-for-Service Treatment Voucher Program (6/2005).
- ◆ Supreme Court adopts standardized model for substance abuse treatment (12/2005).
- ◆ Starting July 2006 seven Reporting Centers open statewide providing services to offenders
- ◆ Advanced officer training for the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision program (SSAS) (1/2006).
- ◆ Allocation of funds for expansion of Specialized Problem-Solving Courts (9/2006) .
- ◆ Pew Charitable Trusts selects Nebraska to receive technical assistance (2/2007).